



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present application, claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-8 are rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Figure 1 has been amended to reflect the drawing is now one of two sheets of drawings in the present application. Figure 2 has been submitted to address the Examiner's objection to the drawings. No new matter has been entered as a result of the amendments or new drawing being added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requested an additional drawing of an enlarged view showing the V-ring, guide plate, blanking punch, and counter-holder.

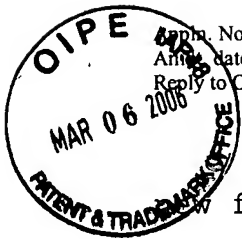
The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,556 to Haack et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,556 to Haack et al. as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,818 to Baltschun.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings and requested an additional drawing of an enlarged view showing the V-ring, guide plate, blanking punch, and counter-holder.

Applicants submit herewith a replacement drawing labeled "1/2" and a new drawing for new Figure 2 labeled "2/2" in compliance with the Examiner's request. Entry of the new figure does not introduce new matter.



Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the figure and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,556 to Haack et al.

Applicants contend Wolnosky in view of Haack does not teach, suggest or provide the requisite motivation to achieve all of the elements recited in amended independent claim 1.

Applicants' independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"a press plate (10) having a V-ring (11), which is under pressure from a V-ring cylinder (13) comprising a V-ring piston rod (15) connected to a V-ring piston (12) disposed opposite to and in support of the V-ring (11) of the press plate (10), wherein the V-ring cylinder (13) is disposed through a crosshead (3) of a machine frame (2), and"

Wolnosky employs a V-ring cylinder 42 that is connected to a lower die shoe 16 which in turn is connected to a lower riser 12. The lower riser is part of the frame of the Wolnosky structure for fine blanking metal workpieces 10, whereas the lower die shoe 16 is not. As shown in the figures of Wolnosky, the V-ring cylinder 42 is not disposed through the lower riser 12. Furthermore, Wolnosky does not suggest disposing a V-ring cylinder through the machine frame.

Haack employs a hydraulic unit 4 having cylinders 13, 14 disposed therein. Hydraulic unit 4 is secured at the top to a cover plate 8 and is connected at the bottom to an upper tool support 17 (col. 2, ll. 44-60). Haack also employs a similar configuration wherein a hydraulic unit 4' includes cylinders 15, 16 disposed therein. And, hydraulic unit 4' is secured at the

bottom to a base plate 9 and connected at the top to a lower tool support 18 as the substructure thereof. Applicants contend the cover plate 8 and base plate 9 are not truly part of the frame of the blanking press taught by Haack. However, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to associate the cover plate 8 and base plate 9 as being a part of the frame, Haack would still not teach or suggest disposing any one of cylinders 13, 14, 15 or 16 through the frame of the blanking press taught by Haack. As shown in the figures of Haack, cylinders 13, 14, 15 and 16 are not disposed through either cover plate 8 or base plate 9. Furthermore, Haack does not suggest disposing cylinders through the blanking press frame.

As a result, no requisite motivation can be found to combine Wolnosky and Haack in order to teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicants' amended independent claim 1.

For these reasons, Applicants' independent claim, and dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-8 which ultimately depend therefrom, are patentable over Wolnosky in view of Haack. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow claims 1-3 and 5-8.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,570,343 to Wolnosky in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,905,556 to Haack et al. as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,818 to Baltschun.

Claim 4 is dependent upon Applicants' amended independent claim 1.

Applicants reiterate their contention that neither Wolnosky nor Haack teach or suggest all of the elements of Applicants' independent claim 1 for the reasons stated above.

Applicants contend Baltschun does not cure the deficiencies present in either Wolnosky or Haack. Baltschun employs a knife edged ring cylinder C disposed within a cylinder housing 8. Cylinder housing 8 is integrated within a crossmember 2 which is in turn connected to a crosshead 4.1 of the precision blanking press taught by Baltschun. The knife edged ring cylinder C is thus disposed through both crossmember 2 and crosshead 4.1 of the precision blanking press taught by Baltschun.

Baltschun teaches the following at col. 4, ll. 25-36:

"During the infeed stroke of the slide 1, the crossmember 2 and cylinder housing 8, integrated therein, of the knife-edged ring cylinder C are moved upward synchronously. The piston 13 of the knife-edged ring cylinder C remains constantly in contact with the thrust bolt 9 and is held in this lower position by means of the piston 21 of the pressure medium loaded cylinder E. The piston 21 is connected to the stand 4 by means of connecting elements 23. As a result of the upward movement of the cylinder housing 8, the pressure medium has to be transferred out of the cylinder space 15 into the cylinder space 12 via the line 14.1, valve 16 and line 14."

As taught and shown in the figures, Baltschun disposes the knife edged ring cylinder C through both crossmember 2 and crosshead 4.1. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that Baltschun integrates cylinder housing 8 and its parts within the crossmember 2 in order to withstand the pressure being transferred [and experienced] during at least the infeed stroke of the slide 1 when operating the precision blanking press. Baltschun cannot provide the suggestion or requisite motivation to remove or eliminate the integration of the cylinder housing 8 and its parts from within the crossmember 2 or the crosshead 4.1 for that matter. Baltschun does not teach or suggest how to make the moving mass substantially smaller during a ram stroke, so that the expenditure of energy per stroke and the weight of

the machine can be kept substantially smaller. Such benefits and advantages are inherent in the claim elements recited in Applicants' amended independent claim 1. Baltschun cannot cure the deficiencies present in either Wolnosky or Haack.

For these reasons, Applicants' dependent claim 4 is patentable over Wolnosky in view of Haack et al. as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Baltschun. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow Applicants' dependent claim 4.

Conclusion


An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

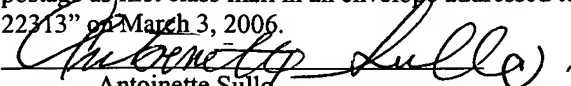
Respectfully submitted,

ERNST RYTZ ET AL.

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Date: March 3, 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 3, 2006.


Antoinette Sullio